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S-E-C-R-E-T

15 March 1957

BRIEF FOR: CIA Career Council

SUBJECT: National Defense Executive Reserve

1. Background: At the 3 May 1956 meeting of the CIA Career Council, the staff study, "National Defense Executive Reserve," dated 17 April 1956, which had been recommended to the Council by the Deputy Director (Support), was briefly discussed and approved. The Director of Personnel was requested to conduct further studies and continue conversations with the Office of Defense Mobilization in order that the Agency might, if practicable, carry out the spirit of Executive Order 10660 establishing the National Defense Executive Reserve. It was recognized that only by cooperating with ODM would CIA be able to earmark civilians who might be needed in the event of a national emergency.

2. Progress of National Program: 345 Executive Reservists have been designated by participating agencies with 500 in process. A goal of 2000 has been set for this calendar year by ODM. The only two departments really showing progress are Commerce, which has a target of 700 reservists, and State, which has 60 as its objective. Of the fourteen agencies having a defense mission which have been invited to participate, all have limited programs under way. CIA has taken no specific action.

3. Use of Consultants: In reviewing the Agency's problem with ODM, the suggestion that certain of our consultants be designated as Executive Reservists received favorable reaction. This would have the advantage of ensuring the services of these people for the Agency in the event of general emergency as well as giving evidence of CIA's desire to cooperate with the rest of the Government in the master plan.

4. Proposed Action:

a. That each Deputy Director nominate from the roster of his consultants ten candidates for the National Defense Executive Reserve.

b. That selection of approximately 15 be made by the Director of Personnel in consultation with the Deputy Directors concerned and the Director of Security.

c. That the Director of Personnel invite persons so selected to participate in the CIA Unit of the National Defense Executive Reserve, with the immediate objective of naming a small number, possibly six, who could be briefed and made ready for participation in Operation Alert 1957.

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